The Significance of Fajr Salaat.

Introduction:

All Praise and Glory is due to Allah,who has granted us the great gift of Salaat. Salaat is the only order of Allah Ta'aala which our Noble Master, Muhammad - Rasulullah (S.A.W.) received in the heavens on the night of Meraaj. All other orders were sent down to Nabi (S.A.W.).The significance of Salaat can therefore be realised. Also,the pages of the Quraan and the Hadith are replete with injunctions emphasising the importance of Salaat.In fact, it holds such a high position in Islam,that it has been classified as one of the pillars of the foundation of Islam.

Salaat is a great pillar of Islam and an important form of worship, which next to faith, is superior to all other obligatory duties. It is the greatest and the most glorious sign among the practices and signs of Islam. It is a means and a medium between the servant and His Rabb - which prevents the servant from falling into the most infernal Alas,so many Muslims in sound health and fine fettle , hear the call to Salaat(Adhaan) and still pass by the Masjid indifferently.Rasulullah(S.A.W.) has stated that it is **Salaat).** (Ahmed ,Tabrani,etc.).

The indifference which is displayed by the Muslim Ummah of today towards upholding this important pillar is inexplicable.It is sad that such neglect should be shown to an order of Allah Ta'aala which is amongst the first to be reckoned about on the Day of Qiyaamah. The Fajr salaat in particular is even neglected by those who do perform the other salaats of the day.It is therefore hoped that by describing the benefits and the virtues of this beautiful salaat, and by highlighting the grave warnings of it's non - performance,the readers may become aware of what they are missing and what they are heading for by neglecting the first salaat of the day. May Allah Ta'aala grant us the Taufeeq (strength) to practise this commonly neglected salaat and the knowledge to realise and appreciate it's beauty before death overtakes us and it is too late.

THE VIRTUES OF FAJR SALAAT.

Allah Ta'aala mentions in the Noble Quraan:
An important point to remember is that these benefits are to be attained for performing this salaat with Jamaat.Unfortunately there are few people who perform this salaat at all,and fewer still,who do so with Jamaat.

Rasulullah(S.A.W.) has said :-

regions of Jahannam. (Hujjatullah il Balighah).

It is mentioned in a Hadith that :

The first thing to be reckoned with on the Day of Qiyaamat, among the actions of the servant, is Salaat.If his Salaat proves to be in order then he will be successful,otherwise he will be rejected. (Tirmidhi).

When Nabi (S.A.W.) saw a person performing Salaat irregularly,he remarked:

Had this man died in this condition,he would not have died in the Deen of Muhammed. (Majlisul Abraar - pg 304).

Establish salaat at the two ends of the day and at the approach of the night.
(Surah Hud,Aayat 114)

The above verse is in itself,proof of the importance of Fajr Salaat. Besides being mentioned in the Lofty Quraan,it has also been mentioned in the Hadith,where,

Rasulullah(S.A.W.) has said :-

The person who performs the Fajr Salaat with Jamaat (congregation),is under the protection and mercy of Allah Ta'aala . (Ibn-e-Majah).

Today,everyone realises the importance of security and protection and every effort is made to attain it.The above Hadith guarantees divine protection from the Creator of Mankind,Allah Ta'aala, for the person who performs Fajr Salaat with Jamaat.This shows that besides the great virtues and benefits of Fajr Salaat with Jamaat in the Aakhirat, there are benefits to be attained here in this world as well.

Give glad tidings of complete Nur (illumination) to those people who walk to the Masaajid in the darkness of the night. (Ibn-e-Majah).

In another Hadith,Rasulullah(S.A.W.) has said:-

The person who performs two "cold" salaats will enter Jannat.   (Bukhari).

The majority of the Ulema explain these two salaats as being those of Fajr and Asr. It has also been stated that:-

The person who performs the Salaah before the sun rises and before **i**t sets (i.e. Fajr and Asr "sheer tyranny,unbelief and hypocrisy that one may hear the call of Allah's announcer and still not comply with it (i.e. not presen
In the light of the above Hadith, some Ulema have mentioned that if a person misses the Sunnat of Fajr but manages to perform his farz Salaat only,then he should perform the sunnat after the sun rises,(i.e. at the time of Ishraaq.).

This is also the only Sunnat Salaat which can be performed after it's stipulated time.This reinforces the importance of the two Sunnat Salaats of Fajr.We should therefore try our of Salaah.   (Tirmidhi)
two sunnats of Fajr under any circumstances.)   (Abu Dawud).
contemplates the missing of his Salaat.What a sad reflection on the Muslims of today,that one Salaat is missed upon another,and the gravity of this ommision is not even reflected upon.

In one Hadith,Rasulullah(S.A.W.) has stated:-

The two most difficult Salaats for the Munaafiqs (hypocrites) are the Fajr and the Esha Salaats.If they knew the virtue and goodness of these two Salaats,they would have attended it even if they had to crawl.(Bukhari).

This Hadith draws the line between true Imaan and hypocrisy with the particular salaats of Fajr and Esha as ther main criterion.Let us seriously consider on which side of the fence we are.

In another Hadith,Rasulullah(S.A.W.) mentions:-

A person who has missed one Salaat is like one who has lost his family and wealth.
(Tirmidhi-Ibn Hibbaan).
Hadhrat Ayesha(R.A.) reports that from amongst all the sunnat Salaats, Nabi(S.A.W.) was most regular and cautious regarding the sunnats of Fajr.(Bukhari).

The above two Ahadith guarantee eternal success for that person who is steadfast with these Salaats.These two Ahaadith explicitly expound the virtues and benefits of performing the Fajr Salaat.It is therefore incumbent upon each member of the Ummah,to be steadfast upon and to enjoin this Salaat with regularity,as the person who does so is regarded as a flag bearer of Imaan by Nabi (S.A.W.).

GRAVE WARNINGS FOR NEGLECTING THE FAJR SALAAT.

Abdullah bin Shaqaaq(R.A.) states:-

The companions of Nabi(S.A.W.) - (that is,the Sahaaba) - only regarded the neglect of one action as seriuosly as Kufr,and this was **the non-performance**
The above is sufficient warning for any true believer who event oneself for Salaats) will never enter into Jahannam. (Sahih Muslim).

A person's most prized possessions are his wealth and his family,and it is his involvement in these two areas which generally prevent him from performance of Salaat. This is the reason why missing one's Salaat has been likened to losing one's entire family and wealth. May Allah Ta'aala grant us,the ummat of our illustrious Nabi (S.A.W.),the realisation of the importance of Salaat. The great virtues and blessings of the regular performance of Salaat and the disastrous results of it's neglect and non-performance is beautifully summarised in the following words of Nabi (S.A.W.):-

Whoever will offer the Salaat properly and regularly,it will be a source of light ,a proof of his Imaan and a means of salvation for him on the Day of Qiyaamat.(On the contrary),whoever will not offer Salaat carefully and regularly,this will not be a source of light ,nor a proof of his Imaan, nor a means of salvation,and the end for such a person will be with the likes of Qarun, Firaun, Hamaan and Ubay bin Khalaaf. (Ahmed,Ibn Habbaan - Baihaiqi).

THE TWO SUNNAT RAKAATS OF FAJR SALAAT.

In another Hadith, Hadhrat Ayesha (R.A.) reports that Nabi (S.A.W.) has said:-

The two Sunnat of Fajr is superior to the entire world and that which it contains. (Muslim).

Once,a person came to Nabi (S.A.W.) and said:-

O Rasulf Allah (S.A.W.),show me such an action by means of which Allah Ta'aala will grant me benefit?

Nabi (S.A.W.) replied:-

Hold onto the two rakaats of Sunnat before Fajr Salaat,as there
So protective is Fajr Salaat,that Nabi (S.A.W.) has stated that:

Whosoever goes for Fajr,it is as if he goes under the banner of Imaan and whosoever goes to theis great virtue in it.

In another hadith Nabi (S.A.W.) said:-

Do not discard the two rakaats Sunnat of Fajr,even though a horse rides over
The angels of the day and night gather in Fajr Salaat.(Tirmidhi).

It is hoped that a yearning to start on the road to reformation has been kindled.Here are a few suggestions which may assist in this process.

Most people have the problem of waking up for the Salaat of Fajr. This problem can easily be overcome by firstly creating an awareness of waking up. When we are worried about a worldly appointment, we automatically wake up for it.

Secondly, we should set an alarm clock or enlist the aid of someone who is already in the habit of doing so.Some of us complain that it is unsafe to go out to the Masjid at the time of Fajr.To test whether we are being sincere about this,we should apply the following test.Imagine our reaction if the alarm of our shop or safe went off.If we would sit in our homes for fear of conditions outside,then they must truly be bad.If not then we have to reconsider our priorities and see whether we are not placing more importance to the temporary valuables of the world to the invaluable treasures of the Aakhirat.

Thirdly,after this beautiful habit has been inculcated in ourselves,let us make a

you.(i.e. one should not miss the utmost not to neglect these rakaats which are more superior to the entire world and all that is in it.
bazaar (without performing Fajr),it is as if he goes under the banner of Iblees.
(Ibn-e-Maja)

CONCLUSION:

At a time when the Muslim Ummah is undergoing such a difficult and trying phase,it is incumbent upon us to become practical Muslims.The first step towards this is to become regular with our Salaat.Insha-Allah,after reading these few warnings (amongst the many others) about neglecting the Fajr Salaat, and about the many virtues and benefits of fulfilling this important Salaat of the day,we will develop a good habit at the beginning of the day.This will undoubtedly create a yearning to start reading all the five Salaats.It also begets an unforseeable amount of blessings and benefits,both in this world and in the Aakhirat.

While commenting on the Quraanic aayat, "There is Qiraat in Fajr.",Nabi (S.A.W.) said :

sincere effort to spread its beauty to our children and those under us. During this process,it is important to refrain from sarcasm and harshness and to work with wisdom,intelligence and firmness.

IMPORTANT MASALAS.

1) If there is only enough time to read the two Farz of Fajr Salaat and not enough time to perform the Sunnat Salaat, then one should perform the Farz and later, after sunrise, make the two rakaats Sunnat with the intention of Nafl (as there is no Qaza for only Sunnat).

2) If,however,one missed the whole of the Fajr Salaat, then one should perform the Qaza before Zawwaal by first reading two Sunnat rakaats and then two Farz rakaats.

3) If Qaza is made after Zawwaal,then only the Farz rakaats have to be read.One should NOT read the Sunnat rakaats in this case.

4) If there is hope of gaining even one rakaat or one sitting (qadah) in the Farz of Fajr,then one should not miss the Sunnat rakaats,(i.e. read the 2 sunnats and then join the Farz.)

5) It is strictly forbidden to perform the Sunnat rakaats after the Farz rakaats BEFORE sunrise.

6) To recite Surah Kaafiroon and Ikhlaas in the two Sunnat rakaats of FAJR is proven from the Ahadith.However,one should not regard it as being essential and occasionally one should leave it out.

7) It is Makrooh to continuously recite Surah Sijdah and Surah Dharr in the two Farz rakaats of Fajr on every Friday.

8) If a person read four rakaats instead of two for the two Sunnat of Fajr, and then made Sajdah-e-Sahw at the end,then the first two rakaats will be regarded as Sunnat and the second two as Nafl.

9) On the entry of Fajr time,one should not perform any Nafl Salaat except the Sunnat rakaats before the Farz rakaats of Fajr.fill this simple commandment of Allah, cannot be overlooked.

(Ref: Fatawa Mahmoodia - Vol Two ; Ahsaanul Fatawa - Vol Three; Fatawa Rahimiyyah - Vol One; Nurul-Eezaa.)

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Thus if a person commences ones Fajr Salaat just before sunrise and whilst performing it the sun rises,then this Salaat is NOT valid and Qaza of this Salaat becomes waajib (necessary).

To conclude, we add yet another of the numerous virtues of this Salaat.

Nabi (S.A.W.) has said:

Whosoever performed Esha with Jamaat,it is as if he has performed Salaat standing for half the night,and whosoever performed Fajr Salaat with Jamat,it is as if he has performed Salaat standing for the entire night. (Muslim).

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10) Salaat can be read during the first time for Fajr with Jamaat in Ramadhaan.

11) Tahajjud and Sehri end at the same time.Then immediately after the time of Fajr starts and it ends with the beginning of sunrise.

The literal meaning of this Hadith, indicates that there is a greater reward for Fajr Salaat read with Jamaat when compared to Esha Salaat read in the same way. However,it could also mean that the Fajr Salaat (which is read after performing Esha Salaat the previous night) has the status of standing in prayer for the whole night.In either case,the greatness of awakening from one's sleep solely to ful
d .